



## **An Investigation on Rural Community Development Measures and Community Development: A Study of Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria**

**Orjanimaku Micheal Chinedu, Nwosu Chinedu Everest (Ph.D)**

Department of Sociology, Taraba State University, Jalingo, Nigeria

mikeorjoo3@gmail.com, everestinox@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** This study investigates the linkage between rural community development measures and community development in Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. To actualize this objective, two hypotheses were formulated in the study. The survey research design was adopted for the study. A sample size of 399 was adopted from the population of the study using Taro Yamane formula for sample size determination. The purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the respondents that were drawn from the districts in Yorro Local Government Area. The data collected from the field were presented using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages while the chi-square statistical tool was used to test the hypothesis formulated in the study. The test hypothesis reveals among others that, there is significant relationship between the provision of agricultural inputs and increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area. The study concludes that rural community development measures in the form of providing agricultural inputs and basic or infrastructural amenities by government at all levels to the inhabitants of rural communities is a panacea towards increasing food production and instigating structural development in rural communities. The study recommends among others that, Taraba State Government should increase investment on agricultural inputs such as the provision of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides to farmers as well as train and re-train the farmers in modern methods in farming techniques through collaboration with research institutes. By so doing, there would be increase in food production in rural communities and beyond.

**Keywords:** Measures, Rural, Community, Development, Taraba State.

---

### **Introduction**

Rural community development and advancement effort has attracted the attention of successive policy makers and governments in Nigeria over the years. This is clearly demonstrated by the various rural development programmes and schemes established by successive governments which centers mostly on agricultural development and rural infrastructural provision. Despite all the efforts and resources committed to these programmes/schemes according to Oruonye (2013), they have not met sufficient achievement. The rural areas continue to suffer with very low manpower development, poor and ramshackle infrastructural facilities, low crop yield and low integration and rural- urban migration. Rural community development as stated by Akhimien, *et al.* (2017), involves rising agricultural productivity, commercialization and diversification of production patterns and livelihoods within the agricultural sector and the rural non-farm sector. Simultaneously, rural transformation is shaped by the growth and diversification of the demand for food and raw materials from these sectors. These interacting forces define pathways and levels of rural development which in turn, shape opportunities for, and constraints to rural

development and its sustainability and inclusiveness (Akhimien, et al. 2017).

The outcomes of agriculture and the rural non-farm economy reflect and determine the pathway of rural community development. One of the basic roles of a society as succinctly put by Akpan (2012), is to be able to reconstruct and build its own capacities and harness its resources to facilitate development that would improve the lives of people in both urban and rural areas. The need for active rural development policies have become imperative in addressing development issues as three quarters of the world impoverished reside in the rural areas. To reduce the poverty levels in the rural areas and resultant excessive population influxes in urban areas in search for safety nest, a lot of governments in developing countries have been shifting attention to rural development. This development according to Oruonye (2013) has continued to impact negatively on the condition of rural communities in Nigeria, thereby creating the necessity for substitute procedures to rural community development and transformation in Nigeria. Since Nigeria gained independence in 1960, focus on rural development has remained a preoccupation of successive governments in the country (Oruonye, 2013). Though Nigeria is blessed with abundant human and material resources including rich deposits of minerals, wide arable land, and water bodies, the condition of the rural areas in the country portrays a gloomy situation despite these rich resources.

The importance of rural community development in contemporary Nigerian societies cannot be overemphasized as communities require absolute development. Emeh, Elum and Ukah (2012) stated that community development is very important and a sure way to the speedy development of Nigeria. Community development measures are coordinated activities aimed at bringing about social and economic development, a process of helping a community to strengthen itself and develop towards its potentials (Adedokun, Adeyemo & Olorusol, 2010). A lot of rural communities in Nigeria have suffered greatly as a result of poverty, low income, neglect, unemployment, low esteem, and near absence of social and physical infrastructure (Obetta & Okide, 2012). In Nigeria, some local government areas appear not to have been fortunate since inception, in the face of its disadvantaged position in community development benefits which appears to be responsible for the massive exodus of rural population to the urban centres due to lack of essential recreational facilities and amenities, issues become complex for rural communities (Egbe, 2014).

Youth empowerment through skills acquisition is a crucial factor in community and rural development strategies and measures. Skills acquisition is obtaining training and knowledge, for individual sustenance and self-reliance. The formal and non-formal imparting of requisite knowledge that will leverage on individual wellbeing as well as societal growth and development is regarded as skills acquisition. Agricultural inputs as averred by Oluseyi (2018), have impacted positively on the production and availability of food in rural areas. The greater percentage of the population resides in the rural areas and rural communities, hence majority of them engage in agriculture as their primary occupation for a living. The available social amenities in rural communities facilitate growth in other sectors like the economy. Kumar (2013) maintained that, some basic amenities expected in rural communities include, provision of drinking water, individual toilets, rural roads, play grounds, electricity, health facilities, public libraries etc. it is believed that the provision of the basic amenities makes life easier and more pleasant for rural communities. This study therefore investigates the linkage between rural community development measures and community development in Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Rural communities in developing countries have suffered large scale deprivation as a result of inability of government not initiating different measures or strategies for developing rural communities. As days go by, significant policies and initiatives are put in place by government, non-governmental organizations and agencies etc. towards tackling the challenges in rural communities in Nigeria. However, the initiatives and programmes do not appear to reflect what

is invested in the rural areas and bring about absolute rural communities development.

Despite the measures and strategies put in place by government towards ensuring that rural communities are enhanced and developed through the provision of agricultural inputs to farmers such as seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides in Yorro local Government Area of Taraba State Nigeria, it appears there is limited food production. Food security and food sufficiency that the people should enjoy seems not to have been provided for despite the availability of adequate strategies and measures by providing agricultural input to the rural populace for them to use and actualize bountiful harvest and food for their families. Also, the provision of basic amenities such as pipe borne water, good roads, electricity, hospitals and healthcare facilities appears not to have contributed to developing the rural areas by ensuring that there is easy access for the movement of agricultural produce, and establishment of petty businesses in the rural communities as well as rendering healthcare services to the people. This study therefore investigates the linkage between rural community development measures and community development in Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions are posed to achieve the set objectives of this study:

1. Has the provision of agricultural inputs accrues to increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area?
2. Does the provision of basic amenities lead to structural development in Yorro Local Government Area?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to investigate the linkage between rural community development measures and community development in Yorro Local Government Area. While the specific objectives are to:

1. Examine whether the provision of agricultural inputs accrues to increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area.
2. Explore whether the provision of basic amenities leads to structural development in Yorro Local Government Area.

### **Research Hypothesis**

The following hypotheses are formulated in this study:

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the provision of agricultural inputs and increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the provision of basic amenities and structural development in Yorro Local Government Area.

### **Conceptual Clarifications**

For clarification and proper understanding of this study, rural community development measures and community development are conceptualized.

### **Conceptualizing Rural Community Development Measures**

Rural community development measures are external and internal initiated policies and programmes directed at providing social change to the rural areas. These can be coordinated efforts at mental and physical activities geared towards articulating and actualizing the needs of the rural community members. The people through self or foreign aid harness their resources. These people encourage themselves by establishing strong solidarity to better their individual and collective lots (Brennan, 2012). For community to develop, members must have access to education through skills acquisition, empowerment in agricultural inputs, physical and structural improvement. The concept of rural community development measures in this sense connotes the

systematic approaches and methods, strategies and processes adopted or used in community development which gears towards increasing the livelihood chances of the members of the community. The concept of community development strategies entails the processes, methods and medium with which achievement in the improvement in standard of living, employment, economic, education, health and nutrition, housing and variety of social services are achieved (Eluwa, 2018). The measures decrease inequalities in the distribution of rural incomes and rural-urban imbalances in income and economic opportunities, and enhance the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of improvements. Community development entails improvement of living standards of the poor through opportunities for better utilization of their physical and human resources in the communities (Nwaogwugwu, 2018).

World Bank (1994) asserted that, rural infrastructures constitute a significant position in rural dwellers welfare and infrastructural development with complementary development programmes such as agricultural extension, education, health and nutrition. It is commonly believed that a move towards infrastructural provision is equally a move towards national development. The spread of needed infrastructure and introduction of appropriate measures in rural areas would markedly improve rural economy and their output. This means that infrastructural development as stated by Ekong (2003) is sine-qua-non to improving the living standard of majority of the nation's populace. It is also expected to reduce social problems of urban centres such as inflations, congestion, diseases, etc. Basic amenities translate to expansion in production, income, employment generation and welfare of members of rural communities. World Bank (1994) equally added that, adequate and timely information through efficient communication system helps to develop rational consciousness in rural community and thus ensure political, economic and social stability. Non-governmental organizations have aided in no small measure in pursuing the goal of rural and community development in Nigeria and other countries.

### **Conceptualizing Community Development**

Community development according to Ajayi and Otuya (2006) is a way of strengthening civil society by aligning the actions of communities and their perspective in the development of social, economic and environmental policies and actions. It is a multi-dimensional process involving such areas as agriculture health, education, provision of rural infrastructures, social life, political and economic issues, commerce and industry, among others, and their integration with the national economy. It is pertinent to note that, rural and community development cannot be restricted to one unit considering the importance of other elements in the cycle. That is to say that no matter how an element is advanced, it cannot play the role of other components (Mabogunje, 1981). In his own reaction, Anikeze (2010) argued that community development as a process of social action in which people took action to meet those needs with maximum reliance on their own initiative and resources, supplemented with assistance in any government and non-governmental organization. This is on collaborative effort and buying in of the beneficiaries taking ownership with an enabling environment.

Rural development is important not only for its impact on rural populace but also for its contribution to national economy. Community development requires the adoption of appropriate technology for raising rural productivity in agriculture and efficient utilization of resources, creation of efficient transport system for rural to urban areas to ensure easy transportation of agricultural produce for massive food production and supply of industrial raw materials (Gana, 1996). The realm of community development includes generation of new employment, more equitable access to arable land, equitable distribution of income, widespread improvement in health, nutrition and housing, creation of incentives and opportunities. Community development is multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral. While it relies on the expertise of people drawn from a wide professional spectrum, it is carried out by local indigenous people. It requires a blurring of professional boundaries and is a melting pot of expertise and skills (Gray, 1996). In his own quest, Eze (1999) viewed community development as efforts provided for advancement of communities. The major emphasis of community development was upon those activities which

aim at prorating the improvement of the basic conditions of a community's non-material need. This implies that community development is aimed at community action, a situation whereby community action is used as a phenomenon that recommends that community members resolve their problems by directly participating in development activities.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The participatory theory is adopted as best theory suitable to guide this study. The main essence of participatory development theory is an active involvement of people in making decisions about implementation of measures, programs and projects, which affect them. Roodt (2001) noted that, participatory theory stresses the participation of the majority of the population in the process of development program. This approach views development as a process which focuses on community's involvement in their own development using available resources and guiding the future development of their own community.

The relevance of the participatory theory as it applies to this study is that, rural community development measures in Yorro Local Government Area have turned out to be better and visible community development indices. It is people oriented development paradigm that emphasizes quality of participation in local community. In community development in Nigeria, the participatory theory is very useful because development requires bottom-top approach that involves people of different strata and the principal objective of community development is for human, material and infrastructure geared towards development through effective mobilization of both human and material resources with active involvement of the rural populace.

Participatory theory encourages the inclusion of all interest groups in rural communities such as youths, men, women, philanthropist, traditional rulers etc. in the process of development. Engaging in interpersonal communication is valued asset in decision making process in the rural communities, as local people engage in data collection and analysis in facilitating the development of process in the localities which gives room for capacity building of all the stakeholders and communities at large. It has become clear that only concerted effort by community members can solve development challenges in local communities. It is therefore significant to note that community participation has influence on community development. The participatory theory takes centre stage in all aspects of rural community development.

### **Methodology**

The survey research design was adopted in this study. The survey research design was adopted in this study because it has the advantage of effectively aiding to gather first-hand information through the questionnaire in order to investigate the phenomena under study. The study was carried out in Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. The headquarters is Kpantisawa. The local government is made up of six districts namely: Kpantisawa, Bikassa, Nyaja, Pantisawa, Pupule, and Sumbu. The projected population of Yorro Local Government Area in 2022 is 141,400. To determine the sample size for the study, the Taro Yamane 1964 formula for sample size determination was applied. Therefore, the sample size of 399 was adopted for the study. In choosing the sample for the study, the purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the respondent that was drawn from the various districts in Yorro Local Government Area. The essence of adopting the purposive sampling technique was due to the fact that the population figures of all the districts/communities have not been officially released by the National Population Commission (NPC) since 2006 national population census. In this study, data were generated through the primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data collection consists of questionnaire while the secondary sources of data collection consist of information generated from text books, journal articles, internet sources, and website. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. The questionnaire was tagged "Rural Community Development Measures and Community Development" A Study of Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria (RCDMACD). The set of closed ended questionnaire was structured in two sections i.e. section A and section B. Section A, consists of questions that aimed at generating information on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

While section B, consists of questions that aimed at generating information from the respondents in order to ascertain the linkage between rural community development measures and community development in Yorro Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria. The indicators of the independent variable; 'Rural Community Development Measures' are: agricultural inputs and basic amenities while the indicators of the dependent variable 'Community Development' are; increased food production and structural development. The questionnaire was structured in Likert modified four-point response scale. In this type of questionnaire, the respondents were given response options. These options served as the quantification of the respondent's agreement or disagreement on a particular scale. The following are the designated quantifications that were used in the questionnaire: Strongly Agree - 4, Agree -3, Disagree -2, and Strongly Disagree-1. Out of 399 copies of questionnaire administered, 364 copies were successfully retrieved and it was based on the retrieved number of questionnaire that the inferences were made. The frequency distribution tables were used to present the raw data from the field quantitatively for the purpose of easy and accurate interpretation, the simple percentages (%) were used to present the respond rate of the questions asked and to convert information collected from the field into a more statistical construction so as to produce a concise report, while the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistical tool was used to test the hypotheses formulated in the study.

### Data Presentation

#### **Research Question 1: Has the provision of agricultural inputs accrues to increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area?**

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents on whether the provision of agricultural inputs accrues to increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area**

No	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Has the provision of seedlings to farmers leads to increased crop yield in Yorro Local Government Area?	219 (60.2%)	91 (25%)	25 (6.9%)	29 (8.0%)	364 (100%)
2.	Government's provision of water pumps to farmers during dry season farming has led to more harvest in the area?	215 (59.1%)	85 (23.4%)	29 (8.0%)	35 (9.6%)	364 (100%)
3.	Provision of spray fertilizers helps in the availability of food in Yorro Local Government Area?	185 (50.8%)	100 (27.5%)	60 (16.5%)	19 (5.2%)	364 (100%)
4.	Provision of agricultural inputs like pesticides has helped farmers in bountiful produce?	190 (52.2%)	115 (31.6%)	45 (12.4%)	14 (3.8%)	364 (100%)

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

Table 1 shows the respondents perception on whether the provision of agricultural inputs accrues to increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area. In question 1, out of 364 respondents, (60.2%) strongly agreed that, the provision of seedlings to farmers leads to increased crop yield in Yorro Local Government Area, (25%) agreed, (6.9 %) disagreed, while (8.0%) strongly disagreed. In question 2, out of 364 respondents, (59.1%) strongly agreed that, government's provision of water pumps to farmers during dry season farming has led to more harvest in the area, (23.4%) agreed, (8.0%) disagreed, while (9.6%) strongly disagreed. In question 3, out of 364 respondents, (50.8%) strongly agreed that, the provision of spray fertilizers helps in the availability of food in Yorro Local Government Area, (7.5%) agreed,

(16.5%) disagreed, while (5.2%) strongly disagreed. In question 4, out of 364 respondents, (52.2%) strongly agreed that, the provision of agricultural inputs like pesticides has helped farmers in bountiful produce. (31.6%) agreed, (12.4%) disagreed while (3.8%) strongly disagreed.

**Research Question 2: Does the provision of basic amenities lead to structural development in Yorro Local Government Area?**

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents on whether the provisions of basic amenities lead to structural development in Yorro Local Government Area**

No	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
5.	Construction of rural roads has opened up communities in Yorro Local Government Area.	165 (45.3%)	105 (28.8%)	65 (17.8%)	29 (8.0%)	364 (100%)
6.	Availability of functional healthcare services has promoted healthy living amongst the inhabitants of Yorro Local Government Area.	152 (41.7%)	90 (24.7%)	71 (19.5%)	51 (14.0%)	364 (100%)
7.	Electricity supply has attracted small and medium scale industries in Yorro Local Government Area.	110 (30.2%)	99 (27.2%)	90 (24.7%)	65 (17.8%)	364 (100%)
8.	Availability of water has assisted people in washing, cooking, farming, building etc.	79 (21.7%)	118 (32.4%)	89 (24.4%)	78 (21.4%)	364 (100%)

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

Table 2 shows the respondents perception on whether the provision of basic amenities lead to structural development in Yorro Local Government Area. In question 5, out of 364 respondents, (45.3%) strongly agreed that construction of rural roads has opened up communities in Yorro Local Government Area., (28.8%) agreed, (17.8%) disagreed, while (8.0%) strongly disagreed. In question 6, out of 364 respondents, (41.7%) strongly agreed that, the availability of functional healthcare services has promoted healthy living amongst the inhabitants of Yorro Local Government Area, (24.7%) agreed, (19.5%) disagreed, while (14.0%) strongly disagreed. In question 7, out of 364 respondents, (30.2%) strongly agreed that electricity supply has attracted small and medium scale industries in Yorro Local Government Area, (27.2%) agreed, (24.7%) disagreed, while (17.8%) strongly disagreed. In question 8, out of 364 respondents (21.7%) strongly agreed that, availability of water has assisted people in washing, cooking, building, farming etc. (32.4%) agreed, (24.4%) disagreed, while (21.4%) strongly disagreed.

**Statistical Analysis and Test of Hypothesis**

**Test of Hypothesis One**

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between provision of agricultural inputs and increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between provision of agricultural inputs and increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area.

Hypothesis one was tested using the values of the response derived from questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively in table 1.

**Table 3: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies**

<b>Table</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	219 <sub>a</sub>	91 <sub>b</sub>	25 <sub>c</sub>	29 <sub>d</sub>	364 <sub>B1</sub>
2	215 <sub>e</sub>	85 <sub>f</sub>	29 <sub>g</sub>	35 <sub>h</sub>	364 <sub>B2</sub>
3	185 <sub>i</sub>	100 <sub>j</sub>	60 <sub>k</sub>	19 <sub>l</sub>	364 <sub>B3</sub>
4	190 <sub>M</sub>	115 <sub>n</sub>	45 <sub>o</sub>	14 <sub>p</sub>	364 <sub>B4</sub>
<b>Total</b>	<b>809<sub>A1</sub></b>	<b>391<sub>A2</sub></b>	<b>159<sub>A3</sub></b>	<b>97<sub>A4</sub></b>	<b>1456<sub>N</sub></b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

**Table 4: Calculation of Expected Frequencies**

Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>809x364</u> 1456 = 202	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>809x364</u> 1456 = 202	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>809x364</u> 1456 = 202	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>809x364</u> 1456 = 202
Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>391x364</u> 1456 = 98	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>391x364</u> 1456 = 98	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>391x364</u> 1456 = 98	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>391x364</u> 1456 = 98
Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>159x364</u> 1456 = 40	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>159x364</u> 1456 = 40	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>159x364</u> 1456 = 40	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>159x364</u> 1456 = 40
Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>97x364</u> 1456 = 24	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>97x364</u> 1456 = 24	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>97x364</u> 1456 = 24	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>97x364</u> 1456 = 24

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

**Table 5: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis One**

<b>O</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>O-E</b>	<b>(O-E)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>(O-E)<sup>2</sup>/E</b>
219	202	17	289	1.4
91	98	-7	49	0.5
25	40	-15	225	6
29	24	5	25	1.0
215	202	13	169	0.8
85	98	-13	169	1.7
29	40	-11	121	3.0
35	24	11	121	5.0
185	202	-17	289	1.4
100	98	2	4	0.0
60	40	20	400	10
19	24	-5	25	1.0
190	202	-12	144	0.7
115	98	17	289	3.0
45	40	5	25	0.6
14	24	-10	100	4.2
<b>Total</b>				<b>40.3</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

From the contingency table,

$$DF = (r-1)(c-1)$$

$$= (4-1)(4-1)$$

$$= 3 \times 3$$

$$= 9$$

Thus DF = 9

**Decision Rule:** At 0.05 level of significance with 9 degree of freedom, the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is **16.919** while the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is **40.3**. Since the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{cal}$ ) is greater than the table value ( $\chi^2_{table}$ ), we accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) which states that there is a significant relationship between provision of agricultural inputs and increased food production in Yorro Local Government Area and rejected the null hypothesis.

### Test of Hypothesis Two

**$H_0$ :** There is no significant relationship between provision of basic amenities and structural development in Yorro Local Government Area.

**$H_1$ :** There is a significant relationship between provision of basic amenities and structural development in Yorro Local Government Area.

Hypothesis three was tested using the values of responses derived from questions 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively in table 3.

**Table 6: Contingency Table of Observed Frequencies**

Table	SA	A	D	SD	Total
5	165 <sub>a</sub>	105 <sub>b</sub>	65 <sub>c</sub>	29 <sub>d</sub>	364 <sub>B1</sub>
6	152 <sub>e</sub>	90 <sub>f</sub>	71 <sub>g</sub>	51 <sub>h</sub>	364 <sub>B2</sub>
7	110 <sub>i</sub>	99 <sub>j</sub>	90 <sub>k</sub>	65 <sub>l</sub>	364 <sub>B3</sub>
8	79 <sub>M</sub>	118 <sub>N</sub>	89 <sub>O</sub>	78 <sub>P</sub>	364 <sub>B4</sub>
<b>Total</b>	<b>506<sub>A1</sub></b>	<b>412<sub>A2</sub></b>	<b>315<sub>A3</sub></b>	<b>223<sub>A4</sub></b>	<b>1456<sub>N</sub></b>

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 7: Calculation of Expected Frequencies**

Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>506x364</u> 1456 = 126	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>506x364</u> 1456 = 126	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>506x364</u> 1456 = 126	Cell A <sub>1</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>506x364</u> 1456 = 126
Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>412x364</u> 1456 = 103	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>412x364</u> 1456 = 103	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>412x364</u> 1456 = 103	Cell A <sub>2</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>412x364</u> 1456 = 103
Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>315x364</u> 1456 = 79	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>315x364</u> 1456 = 79	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>315x364</u> 1456 = 79	Cell A <sub>3</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>315x364</u> 1456 = 79
Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>1</sub>	<u>223x364</u> 1456 = 56	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>2</sub>	<u>223x364</u> 1456 = 56	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>3</sub>	<u>223x364</u> 1456 = 56	Cell A <sub>4</sub> B <sub>4</sub>	<u>223x364</u> 1456 = 56

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

**Table 8: Placing the Observed and Expected Frequencies for Test of Hypothesis Two**

O	E	O-E	(O-E) <sup>2</sup>	(O-E) <sup>2</sup> /E
165	126	39	1521	12.0
105	103	2	4	0.0
65	79	-14	196	2.4
29	56	-27	729	13.0
152	126	26	676	5.3
90	103	-13	169	1.6
71	79	-8	64	0.8
51	56	-5	25	0.1
110	126	16	256	2.0
99	103	-4	16	0.1
90	79	11	121	1.5

65	56	9	81	1.4
79	126	-47	2209	17.5
118	103	15	225	2.2
89	79	10	100	1.3
78	56	22	484	8.6
				<b>69.8</b>

**Source: Field Survey, 2022.**

From the contingency table,

$$DF = (r-1)(c-1)$$

$$= (4-1)(4-1)$$

$$= 3 \times 3$$

$$= 9$$

Thus  $DF = 9$

**Decision Rule:** At 0.05 level of significance with 9 degree of freedom, the table value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is **16.919** while the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) is **69.8**. Since the calculated value of chi-square ( $\chi^2_{cal}$ ) is greater than the table value ( $\chi^2_{table}$ ), we accept the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) which states that there is a significant relationship between the provision of basic amenities and structural development in Yorro Local Government Area and rejected the null hypothesis.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The result of the first hypothesis of this study reveals that, there is a significant relationship between the provision of agricultural input and increased agricultural production in Yorro Local Government Area. The finding is in agreement with Abayomi (2006) who maintained that, a link can be created between agriculture and modern sectors and this can create employment opportunities and thereby improve rural income and livelihood. On the supply of raw materials to the industrial sector, agriculture has been seen as the major requirement for industrial growth and development because of the sector's role in providing food and raw materials for industries. The findings is equally in tandem with Opeyemi *et al.* (2021) in their accession that agricultural input is essential for the growth of increased agricultural production, increased food availability in Nigeria and recommend that, given the lean resources available and increased income resources to government, attention should be given to the inputs that contributes significantly to the growth of the sector.

The result of the second hypothesis reveals that, there is a significant relationship between the provision of basic amenities and structural development in Yorro Local Government Area. The finding is in agreement with Ukpongson *et al.* (2014) in their argument that, poor infrastructure impact upon the competitiveness of rural business. Care is needed to ensure that any funding improvements in infrastructure aimed at assisting rural communities is integrated with economic and environmental objective and should not have negative impact on rural environment rather than positive impact. The finding is equally in consonance with Aziz (2015) who revealed that, basic amenities are essential for a good quality of life especially in the rural communities' socio-economic aspect. The delivery and accessibility of essential infrastructures such as good roads networks make a huge difference in the rural communities. The importance of road infrastructure to thrive the economy in rural communities has been emphasized specifically in the rapidly developing countries.

The quality and coverage of infrastructure services such as electricity, water, sanitation, telecommunications and transport have a major impact on living standards and economic growth. Poor infrastructure and inadequate communication impact upon the competitiveness of rural businesses care is needed to ensure that any funding for improvements in infrastructure aimed

Effect of Access to Infrastructural Facilities on Sustainable Rural Development in Ihitte-Uboma Area of Imo

State Nigeria

### **Conclusion**

Rural community development measures in the form of providing agricultural inputs to inhabitants of rural communities during farming season is a panacea towards increasing food production as well as enhancing the growth and development of rural communities. Also, the provision of basic or infrastructural amenities by government at all levels is equally an avenue for instigating structural development in rural communities such as small scale businesses, and easy movement of people and transportation of goods from rural communities to the urban areas. Food is very important for social and economic development with sufficient nutrition to produce energy and to protect human bodies from infections and diseases. Beneficiaries of rural community development programmes and projects must be at the forefront by making contributions and taking actions and responsibilities that are required to ensure effective compliance with the measures for rural community development.

### **Recommendations**

Following the problems identified, the objectives, and the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Taraba State Government should increase investment on agricultural inputs, such as the provision of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides to farmers as well as train and re-train the farmers in modern methods in farming techniques through collaboration with research institutes. By so doing, there would be increase in food production in rural communities and beyond for the betterment of the society.
2. Taraba State Government should engage in massive provision of basic amenities in the rural communities such as roads construction, pipe borne water, and electricity supply. By so doing, community members would have access to farming and sell of farm produce as well as the establishment of small and medium scale enterprises in the rural communities.
3. Taraba State Government at all levels, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies should map out other rural community development measures such as the establishment of skills acquisition centers and programmes, women empowerment as these would elevate the capacity of the teeming youths by enabling them to acquire relevant skills and reduce the increased rate of poverty amongst the indigent women in the rural communities.

### **References**

1. Abayomi, O.A. (2006). Enhancing agricultural sector for growth and development of Nigeria. *Journal of Innovation in Research*. 4 (2), 32-43.
2. Adedokun, M.O., Adeyemo, C.W., & Olorunsola, E.O. (2010). The impact of communication on community development. *Journal of Communication*. 1(2), 101-105.
3. Ajayi, A.R. & Otuya, E.E. (2006). Women's participation in self-help community development projects in Ndokwa agricultural zone of Delta State, Nigeria.
4. Akhimien, N.G.; Adamolekun, M.O.; & Isiwele A.J (2017). An overview of rural and community development in Nigeria. Department of Architecture, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Nigeria.
5. Akpan, N. S. (2012). Rural development in Nigeria: a review of rural development policies in pre and post-independence practice. *A Journal of Sociological Research*. Macrothink Institute
6. Anikeze, N.H. (2014). *Theories and practice of local government administration in Nigeria: a comparative perspective*. Enugu: Academic Publishing Company.

7. Brennan, K., & Resnick, M. (2012). New frameworks for studying and assessing the development of computational thinking. Proceedings of the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, 1, 13-17
8. Egbe, E. J. (2014). Rural and community development in Nigeria: An assessment. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review*, 2(2)
9. Ekong, E. E (2003). Rural development in Nigeria: an introduction to rural sociology. Dove Educational Publisher, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.
10. Emeh, I.E J., Eluwa, I.J., & Ukah, F.O. (2012). (2012). Rural community development in Nigeria: a group dynamic perspective Interdisciplinary. *Journal of Contemporary Research Business*. 4, (2) 51-59.
11. Eze, C.A. (1999). Theory and practice of community development: *an introduction to community Development*. Nsukka: Liberty Printing Press.
12. Gana, J. (1996). A strategy for rural development in Nigeria. A Paper Presented at a Seminar O Organized by the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI). Lagos
13. Gray, M. (1996). Towards an understanding of developmental social work. *Social Work Practice* 1: 9-13.
14. Kumar, K. (2013). Exploring the beneficial imperatives of rural communities' development projects to developing nations. *International Journal of scientific research*. 11, 56-79.
15. Mabogunje, A. (1981). Integrated rural development. in social transformation for self-reliance: Proceedings of a National Conference. Directorate for Mobilization (MAMSER). Ibadan: Fountain Publications
16. Obetta, C.T. & Okide, C.C. (2012). Rural development trends in nigeria: problems and prospects", Society for Research and Academic Excellence.
17. Oluseyi O. (2018). Assessment of rural development strategy in Nigeria: lessons from the past IOSR *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 23 (9). 23-29.
18. Opeyemi, G., Olusegun, S.S., Taiwo, A., & Mobolaji, A.O. (2021). Impact of agricultural input supply on agricultural growth in Nigeria. *Journal of Applied Science and Environmental Management*. 25 (8). 49-57.
19. Oruonye, E. D (2013). The challenges of rural tourism development in Nigeria: a case of Yorro LGA, Taraba State Nigeria: *International Journal of Social Sciences Arts and Humanities*. 1 (1), 1-6.
20. Roodt, S. (2001). Exploring the challenges and benefits of rural community development: with participatory approach in context. *International Journal of Science in Agricultural*. 3, 33-45.
21. Ukpongson, M.A., Chikaire, J., Anaeto, F.C., Anyaoha, N.O., Aja, O.O., & Chukwunyere, A.I. (2014). Effects of access to infrastructure facilities on sustainable rural development in Ihitte-Uboma Area of Imo State, Nigeria. *Report and Opinion*. 6 (10), 50-58.
22. World Bank (1994). Rural poverty under previewed: problems and remedies, Washington D.C.